5

SOUVENIR

Twenty-fifth Anniversary

—OF THE—

Home for Aged Couples

—OF THE—

City of Philadelphia

1891

THE HOME FOR AGED COUPLES

OF THE

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA,

WAS DEDICATED ON MAY 2nd, 1876.

The following original Hymn was written by the Rev. William Newton, D. D., and sung upon this occasion.

Although we cannot see thy face;
Yet, when in deeds of active grace,
We show our love to Thee;
Our hearts rejoice to hear the word,
Thy lips have spoken, dearest Lord,
Ye did it unto me.

I own the gift, accept the deed,
As something rendered to my need,
In these the least of mine;
To me, to me, the deed was done,
To me the little kindness shown,
And the reward is Thine.

So when to cheer life's closing years,
O'er which no bow of hope appears,
We feel our spirits move;
Do Thou our feeble efforts bless,
To make the sum of suffering less,
And cheer it with Thy love.

We own no name but Thine, in each
Whom, with Thy gifts we strive to reach,
Our suffering Lord we see;
Oh! bending from Thy throne above,
Do Thou accept this work of love,
As something done to Thee!

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HOME FOR AGED COUPLES

OF THE

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA.

This Institution was organized and started in Centennial year, 1876. Up to that time there was no institution in Philadelphia, and *only one other* in the country (a Church Home in New York City) where the husband and wife could be admitted. *One case*, a worthy couple who needed a home, were compelled to separate, the wife to seek admission in the Presbyterian Home and the husband in the Old Man's Home, and then would meet at their friends, was brought to the notice of a few earnest workers; they met and decided to organize a Home for Couples. They met with discouragement from some people who thought they were foolish to *start* a new enterprise in Centennial year; "*No one* had money to give at such a time." But *they* would not be discouraged; having faith in the work; that it was for a good object, and they would go on with it. They did so, and decided that it should be a NON-SECTARIAN HOME.

That public-spirited and generous man, Mr. George W. Childs, was among the first to encourage the work, saying to one of the members, "Do not be discouraged; go on, it is a good work. If you organize, I will give you one hundred dollars as a life member." Mr. Joel J. Bailey said to the same

person, "I will become a life member, God will bless you in the work ;" and Mr. William Weightman at once became a life member. So, with such encouragement, the work began. A house was rented at Seventeenth and Arlington Streets and at once many generous friends were ready to lend their aid in furnishing and building up a home of this kind. Among the first to help was a lady, who, at that time was living comfortably and her husband having a nice position. How little they thought at that time that in after years they would become inmates in the Home, where they spent several happy years, thankful to have found such a resting place ; both died some years ago.

At the close of the first year, a property was purchased at the corner of Francis and Perkiomen Streets. It has been enlarged twice since then. The last time through the kindness of Mrs. E. E. Girard, one of the managers, who was anxious to fit up an infirmary, and furnished the money for that purpose. The members of the *Auxiliary Board* added a third story to the addition.

Anyone visiting the Institution, will find that it is a plain, neat and comfortable home. Some eight years ago, a couple, having a comfortable little home of their own, out of town, applied for admission. When visited by the committee and reference was made to their leaving such a home to enter an institution, the wife replied, "Yes, it is a nice home, but I will not be able to go on with my work much longer, as the constant use of the sewing machine affects my head and my husband has had a slight sunstroke, he cannot work out doors on our little place, our income would cease, and so in time we would have to mortgage our place, then what would we do?" They entered the Home. The next year his eyesight failed ;

he became blind and was so for several years, until lately, when his sight was restored. They thank the Lord daily for opening up such a home for them.

Just before the death of Rev. Mr. Syle, that good worker among his own people, the *Mutes*, he made application for the admission of a mute couple. The managers at first were startled with such a proposition, but his earnest pleading for his unfortunate people had its effect and they were admitted, and it was a pleasure to all interested to see them express in their mute language, their joy and happiness in their new home. In a few years the husband was called to the "*Better Home*," and about two years later she followed him.

The HOME, started in *faith*, has been blessed. The good Lord has opened the hearts of the people, and they have liberally helped on the work.

Very few are left of the managers who started this work *twenty-five* years ago. The same President and Treasurer are still in office, and one manager, all the others are newer workers in the field.

This non-sectarian Institution *needs your help*. It has no claim on the churches, city nor State, but is supported by the voluntary contributions from friends, legacies, entertainments, etc. It is open to visitors at all times. From October until June short religious services are held in the parlor, each Sunday at 4.30 P. M. Choirs of young people, from different churches, kindly assist at these services, which are open to the public.

During the *twenty-five years*, forty couples have been admitted to the Home. Two couples were discharged for cause; there have been *forty-six* deaths and there are now *thirty* inmates.

EXTRACT FROM THE CHARTER.

Any person contributing annually the sum of Five Dollars and upwards shall, when elected by the Board of Managers, be a member of this Corporation.

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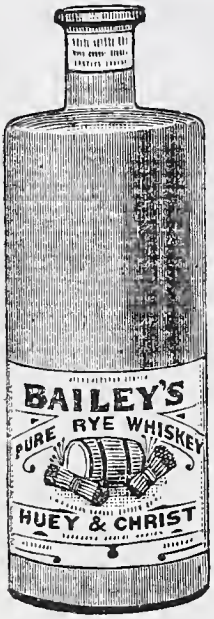

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